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THE BULLETINS WILL NOT APPEAR DURING THE HOLIDAYS. NEXT ISSUE WILL BE JANUARY 7, 1952.

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 4)

LUIS MARDEN

THROUGH THE PEEPHOLE, AN ADVERTISING SANTA CLAUS GETS A LIGHT IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Bulletin No. 1, December 17, 1951

Worst Floods of Century Hit Northern Italy

NORTHERN ITALY, slowly recovering from its most disastrous flood of the century, has counted the cost to be at least 150 lives lost and probably anywhere from $36,000,000 up in property damage. The rampaging Po and other rivers of the north Italian plain marooned thousands of residents, necessitating dramatic rescue by hastily assembled boats. Airplanes and helicopters dropped supplies to isolated communities.

Such inundations are not new to the northern Adriatic coast of Italy. The danger has kept the building of cities to comparatively high ground, away from the rivers. Rovigo, one of the worst-hit towns, is not on the Po, but lies between it and the Adige River to the north.

Seaports Now Inland

The recently flooded area, and also much of the lower Po plain, was once a great bay of the Adriatic Sea. The Po, with its tributary rivers flowing down from the Alps, and the smaller Adige River have washed silt into this gulf, gradually filling it in. Now the Po basin forms Italy's greatest agricultural and industrial region. The river itself has lengthened through the ages to 417 miles, the longest in Italy.

The filling-in process has been rapid, as geologists think of time. It has continued noticeably in recorded time. The cities of Ravenna and Adria were once great seaports, but silting and shifting coastal sands have built up land to the east, leaving them stranded in marshy ground.

Adria shares its name with the Adriatic and was a major port for the Etruscans, pre-Roman rulers of Italy. It now lies 15 miles inland. Ravenna, an ancient Roman port, stands five miles from the Adriatic.

Flood-control projects were undertaken by the Etruscans, the Romans, and the Italians. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the extensive protective system broke down, often helped along by the barbarian invaders from the north. During the Middle Ages the water-control works were rebuilt. Today, all the rivers of the lower Po valley are diked, and the Po itself is some 20 feet higher than the surrounding countryside, due to constant silting and diking.

Invaders Crossed Po Valley

In the fertile Po basin, on comparatively high ground, are many of Italy's great cities. Turin stands near the Po headwaters. Milan rises to the north, on the Lombard plain, and Bologna lies to the south, at the base of the Apennines, Italy's central mountain backbone.

The Po basin is crisscrossed by the routes of the invaders of Italy —Goths, Huns, Germans, and others. Its cities were strongholds of plot, intrigue, and violence in the fratricidal wars of the Middle Ages.

Many notable Italian families have ruled the Po-basin cities, among them the Viscontis, the d'Estes, the Sforzas, the Medicis, and the Borgias, although some of these were actually outsiders from Florence, Rome, and other parts of the peninsula.

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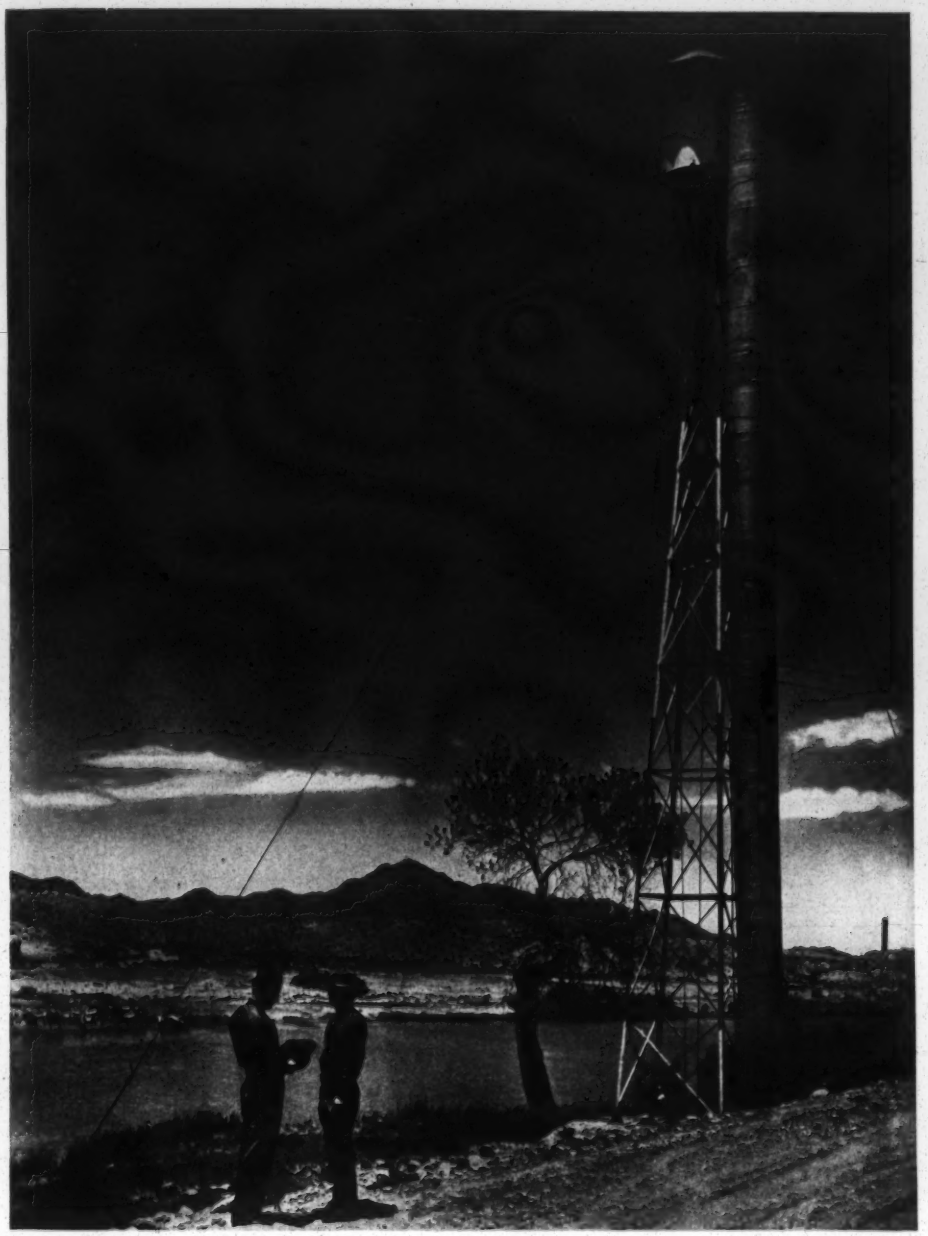

(SEE BULLETIN NO. 2) LUIS MARDEN

A LOOKOUT TOWER COMMANDS A SECTION OF THE RIO GRANDE BELOW EL PASO, TEXAS

Two Border Patrol officers of the United States Immigration Service exchange information about line-jumping activities the night before. Skilled trackers, they trail suspicious footprints leading out of the Rio Grande and usually find their man—a Mexican field worker who has illegally entered the United States. Another Border Patrol keeps Mexican cattle infected with foot-and-mouth disease from crossing the border. Mexico lies across the shallow stream.

Bulletin No. 2, December 17, 1951

Border Patrol Guards 2,000-Mile Mexico Line

THE Wetbacks versus the Border Patrol! It may sound like a football classic or a comic-book lineup of rival gangs, but in reality it is a grim game of hide-and-seek along the 2,000-mile United States-Mexico border.

Pitted against the Wetbacks—illegal immigrants from Mexico named for their soggy condition after swimming the Rio Grande to reach the United States—are the inspectors of the Border Patrol of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Department of Justice (illustration, inside cover).

Boundary Cuts Through Wild Country

Under the terms of a special United States-Mexico agreement, a certain number of migratory field-workers may enter the United States. But, lured by steady work and higher pay, as many as 500,000 additional Mexican laborers "jumped the line" and were apprehended last year. Fewer than 800 Border Patrolmen were equal to the task of tracking down the trespassers. When caught, the interlopers are simply loaded onto buses and taken back to the border. There is no penalty.

From San Ysidro, California, to the mouth of the Rio Grande at Port Isabel, Texas, the border stretches across blazing desert and rugged mountains and along the desolate shores of the murky Rio Grande (illustration, next page). Along the boundary lies some of the wildest and most isolated country on the continent. Yet Border Patrol officers who ride the line can tell just what crossed the night before, where and when it crossed, and in what direction it went.

To "cut sign" is the border expression meaning to cross a trail, interpret it, and follow it.

Specially trained in the art of tracking, officers patrolling the border are constantly on the lookout for "sign"—footprints, tire or hoof tracks, misplaced rocks, bent grass, or cigarette butts. They also look for marks of branches trailed behind the illegal crosser to obliterate his tracks. This practice of the line jumper has given him another colorful name—brushtail.

Because footprints can be seen most plainly when the sun is low, an officer usually patrols his section of the border early or late in the day, shifting his gaze along the route so as to view the ground from as many angles as possible to catch even the faintest shadow of a footprint depression.

Lizards Tell Time

While patrolling west of El Paso, Texas, recently, an officer came across two sets of fresh prints leading from Mexico. The "eyeholes" in the heels of one were unusually large. A telltale line crossed the left sole of the other where the leather was cracked.

The prints were followed to Lizard Switch, a point on a lonely stretch of railroad. A track of a little desert lizard crossed one footprint. Lizards are out at dawn so the men must have reached the switch during the night. That they had waited there some time was obvious from the bent

The Po basin covers an estimated 27,000 square miles. Some of it lies in southern Switzerland. The beautiful lakes—Como, Maggiore, Garda—of the Swiss-Italian border region drain into the Po system and make connecting links between the valley and the Alps.

NOTE: Italy is shown on the National Geographic Society's map of Europe and the Near East. Write the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C., for a price list of maps.

For additional information, see "Italy Smiles Again," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for June, 1949; "The Roman Way," November, 1946; "Northern Italy: Scenic Battleground," March, 1945; "Behind the Lines in Italy," July, 1944; and "Italy, From Roman Ruins to Radio," March, 1940. *(Back issues of the Magazine may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at 60¢ a copy, 1946 to date; $1.00, 1930-1945; and $2.00, 1912-1929. Earlier issues, when available, varied prices.)*

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 12, 1951, "Italy's Northern Plain Is Hub of Nation"; and "Po Valley Oil Discovery Adds Welcome Fuel," October 31, 1949.

HERBERT

LIKE FRINGED BLANKETS, MACARONI HANGS ON POLES TO DRY IN THE WARM ITALIAN SUN

National Geographic's New Bird Book Makes Prized Christmas Gift

Orders for the Geographic's new 328-page bird book, now being filled, indicate that many persons are giving this first work of its kind to friends, relatives, and business associates as a Christmas gift. With its 331 color pictures of 266 North American species, the volume is not only a must for bird lovers but is almost certain to awaken any reader's interest in the fascinating realm of ornithology.

The book is titled *Stalking Birds with Color Camera.* Dr. Arthur A. Allen, the author, is known over the world for his color flash pictures of birds in action and for entertaining articles about his feathered friends.

Stalking Birds with Color Camera is available ONLY from the National Geographic Society. $7.50 in United States and Possessions; elsewhere $7.75. Postpaid.

Bulletin No. 3, December 17, 1951

Jet Age Pierces Heart of "Dark Continent"

THE jet age is blasting a cometlike trail across the skies and into the heart of the "Dark Continent." A new British airfield, recently opened at Entebbe, Uganda, has runways that stretch two miles in length and can handle the latest jet planes. The field is the largest in Africa.

Built 250 miles south of the southern border of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the field occupies an important position between the Middle East and South Africa. It is a link in a secondary British "life line" to India and the Far East, an air route crossing mid-Africa that would partially replace the Mediterranean-Suez line if it were threatened or lost.

Natives Accept Air Age

The new airport has year-round good weather. Entebbe, capital of the British Uganda Protectorate, nestles on the north shore of Lake Victoria, where seaplanes also can land (illustration, next page). The word Entebbe means "a throne." It is a planned capital, having no trade or other importance in native life. Kampala, 20 miles away, is the colony's chief town and trade center—with 60,000 inhabitants. Many of Entebbe's 5,700 residents are colonial administrators and employees.

Reports from the capital say Uganda's nearly 5,000,000 tribesmen have taken the arrival of the jet age in stride. Early missionaries considered the largest of the tribes—the Baganda—the most advanced in the entire central section of the continent. They quickly learned to cultivate cotton—now Uganda's most valuable cash crop. Tea, rubber, and coffee plantations also are profitable.

Modern methods and transportation have altered customs for many native families. They now live in rectangular stone and wood homes, rather than in rude beehive thatch dwellings. City men wear European clothing instead of bark cloth and animal skins. The women are inclined to cling to brilliantly colored native dress, and in the far interior, to old-style brief covering.

Along with the jet age, inflation and price control have penetrated the remote jungles. The local government was forced to act when the price of brides rose sky high. The bride-price now is frozen at five head of cattle, five goats, and the equivalent of $2.80 in cash.

Livingstone Lost and Found Years Ago

The Nile River begins in Uganda where the Victoria Nile flows from Lake Victoria, forming the only outlet for the world's second-largest fresh-water body of water. Along the west border of Uganda rise the Ruwenzori, the Mountains of the Moon, whose snowy heights defy the Equator. In the forests of their remote slopes lurk pygmies whose single spear makes them master of the jungle's largest game.

Grasshoppers, with rhinoceroses, leopards, and crocodiles are found in Uganda today as they were 81 years ago when the explorer, David Livingstone, disappeared while searching for the sources of the Nile.

An expedition led by Henry Morton Stanley found Livingstone in

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grass around the mesquite bushes. They had moved three times to stay in the shade—a sign that told the officers how much head start the men had.

Since the footprints disappeared at Lizard Switch, it might have seemed obvious that the wanted men had boarded a freight. But switchmen's footprints were conspicuously absent, the trailers noted. No train had taken siding there that day.

The officers checked without success along the track, seeking patches of oiled sand placed in spots where anyone walking the ties might make a misstep and leave a print. Still no sign was found. By circling the area about a half-mile out over more favorable ground, the footprints were located. The eyeholes in the heel and the line made by the cracked sole matched the other prints. The trail struck off toward a deserted ranch house three miles away, where the men were taken into custody.

"Si, Señor Inspector," commented one, cheerfully, "you remind me last year the desert and the track cannot lie."

NOTE: The United States-Mexican border may be traced on the Society's map of the Countries of the Caribbean.

For further information on the region, see "The Yield of Texas," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for February, 1945; "Baja California Wakes Up," August, 1942; "Down the Rio Grande," October, 1939; "Texas Delta of an American Nile," January, 1939; and "Along Our Side of the Mexican Border," July, 1920.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, May 8, 1950, "Big Bend National Park Preserves Old West"; and "Mexico's Fiestas Combine Religion, Gaiety," January 30, 1950.

W. D. SMITHERS

DONKEYS AND LOCAL CUSTOMS KEEP THESE RIO GRANDE FORDERS FROM BEING WETBACKS

This is the Big Bend region of the Texas-Mexico border. So isolated from the outside world are the few residents on either side of the river in this area that they pass rather freely back and forth across the international boundary. Workers who enter the United States illegally usually do so at night by swimming the Rio Grande—hence the descriptive name "Wetbacks." Immigration officers patiently round them up and take them back to Mexico.

Bulletin No. 4, December 17, 1951

Latin America Exports Christmas Customs

THE Christmas *crèche* and the *piñata,* customs deeply rooted in other lands, are gaining popularity in the United States.

In many European countries and in parts of South America, the crèche is as universal as is the decorated Christmas tree in the United States. Even the humblest homes have their crèches, depicting the scene at Bethlehem on the first Christmas morn, with Jesus and Mary in the stable, friendly animals standing about, and the Three Wise Men in attendance. Crèche is French for manger, or crib.

In the United States, the crèche was long associated only with churches. In recent years it has become a subject for home, community, and store window display. The lobby of the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D. C., for instance, features during the Christmas season a colorful crèche of 20 figures carved in wood by one of Austria's foremost contemporary sculptors.

Piñata Game Is Near Riot

Origin of the Christmas crèche, which has its distinctive name in each of many languages, is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, A.D. 1223. Among its devotees are the Micmac Indians of easternmost Canada, who may first have learned of Christianity from early Norse adventurers. They build elaborate and often large-scale crèches which they make the center of their Christmas Eve devotions.

Down Mexico way where the Christmas climate is very mild, the *piñata,* or gift jar, serves in lieu of Santa Claus and the decorated tree. True, it does year-around duty at birthday parties, but it is during the 21-day Christmas celebration, December 16 to January 6, that the piñata is busiest. January 6 is Epiphany (Twelfth Night).

The piñata, of thin, fragile clay, is laden with sweetmeats and trinkets, decorated with fancy paper, and hung overhead in a room or a patio. Each of the guests—and they are not always children—is blindfolded and given a stick. Swinging the stick overhead, each attempts to shatter the piñata. When it is broken, its contents pour out, and a mad scramble on hands and knees ensues for the spoils.

Pre-Christmas Posadas

Christmas Day itself is customarily given to religious devotion. The piñata aids greatly in making the season tolerable to children, since custom decrees they must wait until the final day to receive their important presents. On January 6, the Wise Men arrive with the gifts, having traveled to their native lands to get them following their attendance at Christ's birth.

The nine days from December 16 to Christmas Eve is *posada* time in Mexican and other Latin-American centers. Posada means inn, or tavern. Although the variations are many, the general idea of the oft-repeated pageant is to enact the scriptural story of the Christmas Eve scene at the inn in Bethlehem.

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near-by Tanganyika in 1870. Stanley became interested in the Uganda country and people. He appealed for missionaries to come and "teach these people how to become Christians and cure their diseases."

Missionaries who responded had to walk six months through steamy jungles with their food and goods piled high on the heads of native porters. Waters were crossed in canoes and small Arab-style dhows. Lake storms, drought, torrential rains, fevers, and prowling lions beset their path. Today, airplanes using Entebbe's new airport cover the same distance in a matter of hours.

NOTE: Uganda is shown on the Society's map of Africa.

For additional information, see "Britain Tackles the East African Bush" and "Roaming Africa's Unfenced Zoos," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1950; and "Uganda, 'Land of Something New'," January, 1937.

See also, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, February 26, 1951, "British East Africa Plans Improvements"; and "Crocodile Hunting Stepped Up in Uganda," March 13, 1950.

ALICE SCHALEK

STEAMERS ON REGULAR RUNS CONNECT ENTEBBE WITH OTHER LAKE VICTORIA PORTS

The capital of Uganda here looks across a small arm of the Old World's largest fresh-water lake. The gardenlike town stands on a promontory behind this scene. Flame-colored flowers and a veritable zoo of wild birds brighten the work of colonial administrators who live here. Travelers comment on the "faintly holy calm" brooding over the town.

Bulletin No. 5, December 17, 1951

Lengthy Kashmir Dispute May Be Settled

THE recent meeting of a constituent assembly in Srinagar, capital of the disputed State of Jammu and Kashmir, was called to give the Kashmiri people a new constitution.

The assembly was convened by Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, prime minister of Kashmir. Abdullah, like more than 3,000,000 of the 4,000,000 inhabitants of this northernmost state of the Indian subcontinent, is a Moslem. However, he has said that he favors joining Kashmir—properly called Jammu and Kashmir—with Hindu India rather than with Moslem Pakistan. Karan Singh, the maharaja, is a Hindu.

Srinagar's Main Street a River

The Kashmir dispute has so far defied United Nations efforts to find a peaceful settlement, although Pakistani and Indian forces honor a UN cease-fire agreement. Troops of both nations remain in Kashmir.

Heart of the state is the Vale of Kashmir, long famous as a beauty spot and vacation center. Through the Vale winds the Jhelum River, serving Srinagar—capital of Jammu and Kashmir—as a Main Street. Its three miles of watery thoroughfare twist through the city and are lined with shops of merchants and craftsmen. It passes mosques built of local deodar logs (a variety of cedar), and flows under seven bridges. Houseboats and darting water taxis called *shikaras* liven the waters of this "Venice of India."

In the houseboats live many Europeans, forbidden to own Kashmir land. Magnificent pleasure gardens, built by the Mogul emperors of India, rim Dal Lake. This aquatic jewel reflects the snow-capped Himalayas which surround the valley. Most noted of these gardens is the Shalimar Bagh, created by the Mogul Jahangir early in the 17th century.

Mountains, glaciers, and high, cold plateaus make up most of Kashmir, which is about the size of Minnesota. It is bordered by India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tibet, and China's Province of Sinkiang. The famous vale occupies only about one twentieth of the territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir's Silk Made Parachutes

Fruit orchards pattern the fertile valleys in the southwestern part of the state, and produce apricots, peaches, apples, pears, and cherries. Rice is the chief crop, corn is raised in quantity, as well as wheat, barley, and oats. Among the many vegetables which thrive are asparagus, cauliflower, and beans.

Local mulberry trees supply food for worms which produce silk processed in Srinagar mills. Much of the parachute material used in World War II came from Kashmir.

When Kashmir's famous shawls dwindled in popularity, many of the weavers turned their hands to rug making. On plain felt mats shipped down from Yarkand, in China's Sinkiang Province beyond the Himalayas, they embroidered designs in gay colors. These "numdahs" are available

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Family groups or groups of intimate friends form nightly processions, often carrying effigies of Mary and Joseph. They move from door to door of a number of imaginary posadas, chanting and carrying lighted candles. At each they are turned away, finally finding refuge in the home that, for the evening concerned, has been chosen to symbolize a stable yard.

South America has hot summer weather for its Christmas season (illustration, cover). Fireworks and open-air festivals make the social part of the Christmas program resemble the United States Fourth of July. Picnics and boating excursions extend the illusion, and only a rare window display of Christmas trees in imitation of winter settings recalls the far-northern scene.

Warm weather or not, good eating is part of the tradition (illustration, below). Cubans, Colombians, and others count on roast suckling pig. Guatemalans on Christmas Eve eat tamales, drink lots of coffee, and dance to marimba music. Venezuelans have their traditional *hallacas* —highly seasoned turtle, pork, chicken, or other meat, enveloped in corn dough to form pies about the size of the hand, then wrapped in banana leaves and boiled for two hours. Families visit their neighbors, exchanging hallacas.

NOTE: See also, "Bethlehem and the Christmas Story," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1929; and "National Christmas Trees Light Up," in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, December 18, 1950 and "How Santa Claus Came to the United States," December 15, 1947.

AMOS BURG

LAMB FURNISHES THE CHRISTMAS DINNER ON DAWSON ISLAND, NOTED FOR SHEEP RAISING

On Dawson, among Chile's bleak islands clustered about the Strait of Magellan, Christmas is celebrated with an outdoor feast in spite of what has been called the world's worst climate. Chief item on the menu of this picnic-style meal is lamb roasted on a spit.

in many American stores and are widely used in the United States. They vary in size, and are roughly rectangular, having rounded corners.

The history of the "Happy Valley" and its mountain frame is one of struggle, conquest and reconquest by native and foreign rulers. At times the Kashmiri themselves asked for foreign aid in getting rid of despotic rulers.

Alexander the Great was perhaps the most famous conqueror to cross Kashmir, which was included in his Indian campaign. His name appears in ancient ballads, still sung by the Kashmiri.

Móslem rulers followed Hindu kings in the 14th century. Under these, the majority of the people became Moslems. In 1585, the Kashmiri appealed for help to Akbar, Mogul of India. The Mogul rule then established lasted about 200 years, during which the Indian emperors spent their summers in the Vale of Kashmir and built Dal Lake's beautiful gardens.

In 1753 Durani Pathans from Afghanistan invaded Kashmir. After them, in 1819, came Sikh rulers from the Punjab. An agreement with the British in 1846 ended Sikh rule and established the dynasty of the present maharaja. A month ago this youthful ruler, by an amendment to Kashmir's old constitution, became a mere figurehead. The real power now is in the hands of the prime minister and his cabinet.

NOTE: Jammu and Kashmir may be located on the Society's map of India and Burma.

For further information, see "The Idyllic Vale of Kashmir," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for April, 1948; "India Mosaic," April, 1946; "First Over the Roof of the World by Motor," March, 1932; and "House-Boat Days in the Vale of Kashmir," October, 1929; and, in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 23, 1950, "Kashmir Floods Spare Wool-Producing Goats"; and "Jammu and Kashmir People Await Plebiscite," January 30, 1950.

HERFORD TYNES COWLING

FOR THIS MAN, LIFE IN THE IDYLLIC VALE OF KASHMIR MEANS HARD WORK

He spends the day gathering wood and bringing it home by boat. Rivers, lakes, and canals form a network of water routes in and around Srinagar, capital of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.